

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of the claims in this application:

Claim 1. - 20. (Cancelled)

Claim 21. (Currently Amended) A laminating apparatus for laminating with protecting film a hologram recording medium on which a holographic image is exposed and recorded, the apparatus comprising:

retaining means for retaining a plurality of folded pieces of said protecting film, wherein each piece of said protecting film is folded in half along a fold line;

supplying means for supplying one by one said plurality of pieces of said folded protecting film retained by said film retaining means and, each piece being folded in two half;

film opening and closing means for one ~~one~~ opening and ~~folding~~, along a folding line, a single sheet folded piece of said protecting film being folded in two at an edge opposite said fold line; and

mounting means for mounting a piece of the hologram recording medium in the opened folded piece of protecting film and thereafter said film opening and closing means closes said opened folded piece of protecting film; and

heat and pressure-bonding means for heating and pressure-bonding said folded piece of protecting film folded along said folding line having been closed by said film opening and closing

means, wherein said hologram recording medium is sandwiched by said protecting film.

Claim 22. (Canceled)

Claim 23. (Currently Amended) The laminating apparatus according to claim 21, further comprising:

retaining means for retaining a plurality of mounting sheets; and

mounting supplying means for supplying one by one said plurality of mounting sheets retained by said retaining means onto a said single sheet folded piece of said protecting film ~~opening along said folding line having been opened by said film opening and closing means~~, wherein

~~said heating and pressure-bonding means heats and pressure-bonds said folded piece of protecting film folded along said folding fold line of said protecting film by said film opening and closing means, wherein said with one of said plurality of mounting sheets provided on a single piece of said protecting film by said mounting supplying means and said hologram recording medium are sandwiched by said protecting film.~~

Claim 24. (Currently Amended) The laminating apparatus according to claim 23, further comprising:

transferring means for transferring a piece of said hologram recording medium to said mounting sheet provided by said mounting supplying means onto a sheet of said protecting film opened along

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aid-folding said fold line by said film opening and closing means.

Claim 25- 31. (Cancelled)